

**Town Manager's Office
Town of Mansfield**

Memo

To: Town Council
From: Matt Hart, Town Manager
CC: Town Employees
Date: June 24, 2013
Re: Town Manager's Report

Below please find a report regarding various items of interest to the Town Council, staff and the community:

Council Requests for Information/Council Business

- *Budget Referendum* – After a successful petition was filed, on Tuesday, June 18, 2013, Mansfield conducted a town-wide referendum on the budget adopted at the Annual Town Meeting. A total of 868 electors and 7 property owners voted and the results were as follows:
 - Are you in favor of the budget as adopted on May 14, 2013?
 - 411 Yes 459 No
 - If the budget is defeated, is the town budget portion too high or too low?
 - 519 Too High 257 Too Low
 - If the budget is defeated, is the school budget portion too high or too low?
 - 432 Too High 348 Too Low

On Wednesday, June 19, 2013, the day after the referendum, the Town Council held a special meeting to take final action on the FY 2013/14 Budget. At this meeting, the Town Council voted to set the General Government budget at \$15,203,170, the Mansfield Board of Education budget at \$20,688,160, the Capital Fund budget at \$2,285,290 and the Capital Nonrecurring Fund budget at \$1,834,300. In adopting the budget, the Council made the following changes to the budget adopted at the Annual Town Meeting:

- reduced the Mansfield Board of Education budget by \$100,000;
- reduced the General Government Operations budget by \$25,000;
- increased the General Fund transfer to CNR by \$333,000;
- increased the CNR Fund transfer to the Capital Fund by \$639,440;
- appropriated \$536,910 in new state revenue for tax relief; and
- left \$350,000 in new state revenue as un-appropriated to provide a reserve for a mid-year rescission or other unforeseen event.

With these changes to the budget adopted at Town Meeting, the Town Council was able to set the mill rate at 27.95 mills, representing an increase of .79 mills or 2.89% over the current year.

Departmental Reports

- *Human Services* – Consistent with our discussion with the Town Council's Personnel Committee, I have assigned Ms. Kathy Ann Easley, our Social Worker, to the Mansfield Senior Center on a full-time basis. Ms. Easley will begin her assignment on Monday, July 22, 2013 and will provide services to seniors and other adults in her new location. We are making this assignment based on the Personnel Committee and management's assessment that a full-time social worker at the senior center is warranted. In order to affect this move, management has reassigned some of Ms. Easley's existing duties to other personnel and we will evaluate the effectiveness of the transfer after a six-month pilot or trial period. In addition, we have extended the contract with Beth Hankins, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, to continue through the end of September 2013 to provide 10 hours per week of her services at the Mansfield Senior Center, and we will be selecting a graduate UConn MSW student to work at the senior center throughout the next academic year under Ms. Easley's direction. I am optimistic that Ms. Easley's assignment and these other additions will significantly enhance the social work resources we have available at the Mansfield Senior Center, and I thank Ms. Easley for her cooperation in this regard.

- *Parks and Recreation* - Jennifer Kaufman, Natural Resources and Sustainability Coordinator, was recently one of three recipients of the 2013 Women Inspiring Conservation in Connecticut Award. The award is sponsored by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and was presented by the Lieutenant Governor, Nancy Wyman. We are very proud of Jennifer for this achievement and thank her for all of her meaningful conservation work in Mansfield and throughout the region!

Major Projects and Initiatives

- *Storrs Center Construction Update* – Motorists are reminded that due to construction of Bolton Road Extension and the completion of Royce Circle, the temporary road connecting Dog Lane and Bolton Road will close. This work is weather-dependent. Motorists wishing to turn from Dog Lane to travel south on Storrs Road (Route 195) will instead turn onto Royce Circle behind the Storrs Center parking garage and follow the newly constructed Wilbur Cross Way to Charles Smith Way (formerly referred to as “Post Office Road”). Vehicles will not be able to turn left onto Storrs Road from Dog Lane. Northbound traffic turning right from Dog Lane onto Storrs Road will be unaffected by this change. This traffic pattern will remain in effect while construction continues on Bolton Road Extension and Royce Circle. Once complete, the intersection of Bolton Road Extension, Storrs Road, and Bolton Road will serve as the main, lighted intersection for Storrs Center. The new roads will complete the boundaries of the Town Square and will accommodate all traffic heading north and south on Storrs Road. Work is expected to be completed by the fall. Questions may be directed to the Mansfield Downtown Partnership (storrscenterinfo@mansfieldct.org or 860.429.2740). The Partnership continues to maintain a construction website for updates at <http://storrscenterconstruction.blogspot.com>.

Special Events

- *CCM Prescription Discount Program Presentation* – The Town will hold a presentation regarding the [CCM prescription discount program](#) at 11:00 AM at the Mansfield Senior Center on Wednesday, July 10, 2013. This event is open to the public. The presentation will cover what the card can be used for and how to use it. A question and answer period will follow the presentation. For questions about this event, please call the Senior Center at 860-429-0262.
- *John E. Jackman Tour de Mansfield* – The Town held its annual John E. Jackman Tour de Mansfield on Saturday, June 22, 2013. We had 129 people participate this year, with a 5-mile Family Fun Ride, a 20-mile ride, a 40-mile ride and a new kid's bike safety rodeo. Moe's Southwest Grill donated lunch for the riders. Our Platinum sponsors this year were Moe's Southwest Grill and Mooyah's. Mansfield ObGyn was a Gold sponsor, Storrs Center Cycle was a Silver sponsor and also provided free bike tune-ups, and Dog Lane Café, Subway, and Milrick Lawn Service and Landscaping, LLC were Bronze sponsors. Milrick Lawn Service and Landscaping, LLC also volunteered to run a rest spot at the Mansfield Hollow State Park. Body Language, Skoras/Head Husky Barber Shop, and Alternative Spoke, LLC all served as in-kind sponsors. Alternative Spoke, LLC was also a rest stop at mile 30. Congratulations to Jessica Tracy from Parks and Recreation for working hard to coordinate another successful event and special thanks to the volunteers and staff for a job well done!

Upcoming Meetings*

- Traffic Authority, June 25, 2013, 10:30 AM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Playground Committee, June 26, 2013, 6:30 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Economic Development Commission, June 27, 2013, 5:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Inland/Wetland Agency & Planning and Zoning Commission, July 1, 2013, 7:00 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Agriculture Committee, July 2, 2013, 7:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Housing Code Board of Appeals, July 8, 2013, 5:00 PM, Conference Room C, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Finance Committee, July 15, 2013, 6:00 PM, Conference Room B, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building
- Town Council, July 8, 2013, 7:30 PM, Council Chamber, Audrey P. Beck Municipal Building

**Meeting dates/times are subject to change. Please view the [Town Calendar](#) or contact the Town Clerk's Office at 860-429-3302 for a complete and up-to-date listing of committee meetings.*